Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 TRSE-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /091 W
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R 121710Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2020 DIA WASHDC INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR DIA: THIS IS IR 6 901 0907 77. SEE PARA 3 FOR IR FORMAT DATA

GENEVA FOR US SALT TWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MPOL, SALT, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: TASS REPORTS DISPUTE IN US ADMINISTRATION OVER ALCM

RANGE LIMITS

1. SUMMARY: THE 12 SEP PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS RELEASE FROM WASHINGTON QUOTING THE NY TIMES WHICH BLAMES DELAYS IN SALT II ON ALLEGED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STATE AND DOD REGARDING AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE (ALCM) RANGE LIMITS. DOD IS SAID TO DIFFER WITH STATE OVER DOD'S DESIRE TO EXTEND THE RANGE LIMIT FOR ALCM'S BEYOND WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN PROPOSED TO THE SOVIETS. THUS THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO BLAME THE PENTAGON FOR DIFFICULTIES IN SALT AND INDICATE THEIR AWARENESS OF A POSSIBLE SHIFT IN THE US POSITION ON ALCM RANGE. END SUMMARY.

1. A SHORT TASS ITEM FROM NEW YORK DTD 11 SEP ON DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE US ADMINISTRATION OVER SALT II APPEARS IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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12 SEPT PRAVDA. IT STATES THAT THE NY TIMES HAS REPORTED DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS ON THE RANGE OF ALCM'S AS A REASON BEHIND THE "DRAGGING OUT" (ZATYAGIYANI) OF THE SALT II NEGOTIATIONS. TASS QUOTES THE NY TIMES AS REPORTING THAT THE PENTAGON SEEKS TO INCREASE THE ALLOWABLE MAXIMUM RANGE FOR THE ALCM WHILE STATE DOES NOT WANT TO ALTER THE LIMIT WHICH

HAS ALREADY BEEN PROPOSED TO THE SOVIETS.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST RECENT COMMENT IN THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS REGARDING ALLEGED DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE US ADMINISTRATION OVER SALT POLICY. IT CONFORMS WITH THE TRADITIONAL SOVIET PRACTICE OF ACCUSING THE PENTAGON OF COMPLICATING THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. IN DEPICTING THE US AS CONTEMPLATING REVISION OF A POSITION ALREADY PRESENTED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, IT REVEALS A PROMINENT SOVIET SENSITIVITY.

3. THIS IS IR 6 901 0907 77, 1. USSR (UR); 2. 6 901 0907 77; 3. TASS REPORTS DISPUTE WITHIN US ADMINISTRATION OVER ALCM RANGE LIMIT (U). 4. OMITTED. 5. 770912; 6. 770912; 7. 770912; 8. CIR: 1ALD(2)9000/CONTS; 9. C-3; 10. USDAO MOSCOW USSR (AIRA) 11. NO; 12. EDWARD L. WARNER III, MAJ, USAF, AAIRA; 13. RICHARD X. LARKIN, BG, USA, DATT; 14. PRAVDA, USSR 15. DIRC-NO. GDS83 TOON

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Subject: TASS REPORTS DISPUTE IN US ADMINISTRATION OVER ALCM RANGE LIMITS

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